

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

A replacement drawing sheet for Figure 11 is submitted herewith.

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended.

Claims 1-17 are pending in the present application, of which Claims 1, 3-8, 10, 11, 13, 14 and 17 are amended herein.

The drawing objections have been addressed by the appropriate amendment to the specification and to Figure 11 of the drawings.

Claims 1, 7, 14 and 17 were objected to for various informalities. The claims have been revised to improve clarity and expression, including appropriate amendments to address the alleged informalities in Claims 1, 7, 14 and 17. The alleged indefiniteness has also been addressed.

Claims 1-17 presently stand rejected on the merits. Applicants respectfully request that these rejections be withdrawn in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Without acceding to the outstanding rejection under 35 U.S.C § 102(e), independent Claims 1 and 14 have been amended more particularly to recite certain distinctive features of Applicants' invention. Applicants respectfully submit that, at least as presently amended, independent Claims 1 and 14 distinguish patentably from U.S. Patent No.

6,529,405 to Chang (Chang), which forms the basis for the aforementioned rejection.

Claim 1, for example, now sets forth, *inter alia*, that in the first reading operation, the information read from a nonvolatile memory cell is stored to a first buffer memory without storing to a second buffer memory, and that in the second reading operation, the information read from the nonvolatile memory cell is stored to the second buffer memory, and then is stored to the first buffer memory.

Claim 14, now sets forth, *inter alia*, that a first buffer memory is adapted to store information read from a nonvolatile memory cell in performing both of the first reading operation and the second reading operation, and that a second buffer memory is adapted to store information read from the nonvolatile memory cell in performing the second reading operation, but not store information read from the nonvolatile memory cell in performing the first reading operation.

It is apparent that Chang does not disclose or suggest the above mentioned features of Claims 1 and 14. Nor are the secondary references, cited in connection with the dependent claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103, seen to overcome the deficiencies of Chang relative to Claims 1 and 14.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection on Chang be withdrawn, and that Claims 1 and 14 be allowed along with their respective dependent claims.

A Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

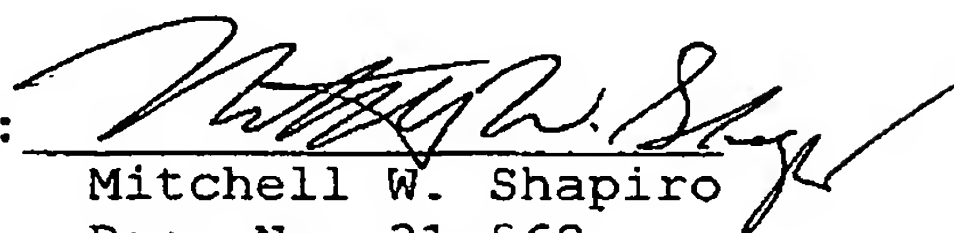
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 any fees that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been requested separately, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office on. February 8, 2006


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